News Release

Brendan Green Anchors Biathlon Relay Team in Bronze Medal Finish at World Championships

Val Martello, Italy (January 31, 2007) – After the Canadian Team's success in the individual races, Brendan predicted "...if we all ski a good race, we will definitely be a threat during the relay on Wednesday." It turned out they were more than a threat: in an astonishing race, they came within a fraction of a second of defeating the powerful Norwegian team and skiing away with the silver. However, they were overjoyed to be on the podium and proudly accepted the bronze medal. Every member of the 4-man team had to come up with a near perfect performance to make the podium finish possible. All came through with strong skiing and without picking up any shooting penalties.

In the anchor position, Hay River's Brendan Green had a major role to play in the success of the Canadian Team. Brendan earned the honour of anchor after having the most consistant placings for the team in the three individual events. A lot can happen in the final leg of a relay event: when the teams are close, nerves of steel are needed to cope with the excitement and intense pressure that develops. That was certainly the situation Brendan faced when the hand off to him took place. At this point, Germany had a commanding lead of several minutes, but Canada was still in medal contention in 4th place, with 5 or 6 teams bunched together within a minute or so of each other. To reach the podium, Brendan had to overtake Poland or Austria, but several other strong teams, including the powerful Norwegian and Russian were close behind, and in position to overtake him if he lost his focus or made any errors.

Over the course of his leg, Brendan managed to overtake all but the Germans, who had developed an insurmountable lead. Outshooting the Norwegian, who had to take a penalty loop, Brendan managed to leave the range with clean targets and a slim 7 second lead. It came down to a sprint to the finish. Seven tenths of a second was all that separated the two as they crossed the finish line, with Norway just pulling ahead to snatch the silver. However, the Canadians could accept the bronze with pride, knowning that they had given one of the great skiing nations a run for their money.

This was a triumphant conclusion to a tremendously successful World Championships for Canada. Brendan's Hay River Coach, Pat Bobinski, followed the progress of the race on the Biathlon World live-result link and commented, "this race has been one of the highlights of my coaching career."

4 X 7.5 km Relay
Junior men top-five results:
1 Germany 1 : 27 :08.9 **2. Norway** +3 :04.7 **3. Canada** +3.05.4 **4. Austria** 3 :49.1 **5. Ukraine** +4.00.3

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Canadian Junior Team:
1. Marc-André Bédard, Valcartier, Que. 2. Yannick Letailleur, Edmonton 3. Maxime Leboeuf, Val Bélair, Que 4. Brendan Green, Hay River, N.W.T

For more information, contact:
NWT Biathlon
(867) 874 2956

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